

ANARCHIST WEEKLY AGE REVIEW



An Anarchist Society is a voluntary non-hierarchical society based on the creation of social and political structures which allow all people equal decision making power and equal access to society's wealth.

P. O. Box 20, Parkville. Vic 3052 Australia ~ Telephone: (03) 9828-2856 ~ (24 hr Message Centre) ~ Fax: (03) 9482-4371

Internet: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~anarchist>

Email: anarchistage@yahoo.com

Anarchist World This Week Radio Programme on the net <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~anarchist>

Number 468

1st - 7th October, 2001

NO GLOBALISATION WITHOUT DIRECT DEMOCRACY - ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE

HI HO HI HO OFF TO VOTE WE GO!!

Elections are the life blood of Australian society. They are an important ritual that forms the backbone of our community. Most anarchists don't seem to understand how crucial elections are. As long as people flock to the polls and cast a ballot, the chances of radical egalitarian change are minimal. A Federal election is especially important, a successful Federal election gives the system the cohesion and vigor it requires to survive another three years.

Anarchists understand that voting is two minutes of illusory power, that power doesn't lie in parliament, but lies in the boardrooms of national and trans-national corporations. Most Australians believe that power lies in parliament and that by voting they determine their future. In Australia voting has been compulsory since 1924 because the Australian State realised that its very credibility relies on the percentage of people who participate in the electoral farce. The more people who participate, the greater the support for the status quo.

That's why an attack on compulsory voting is essentially an attack on the parliamentary system. By breaking the nexus between compulsory voting and elections, we can call the credibility of the parliamentary system into question. As the Federal election looms, it's important that anarchists follow a strategy of resistance that directly challenges compulsory voting. The more activists that challenge the system, the greater the possibility that people will not be willing to give representatives a blank cheque to make decisions for them, for the next three years. Federal elections raise questions about the differences between representative and direct democratic principles.

Anarchists support the principle of the people involved in a decision, making that decision - direct democracy. They are not interested in giving power to representatives to make decisions for them. During the course of this Federal election the Anarchist Media Institute will be involved in a campaign that challenges the legitimacy of parliamentary rule and compulsory voting. During the course of

this election we will be calling on people across Australia to help us in this campaign to shatter the myths this society is based on.

500 BILLION!!

A lot of money in anyone's eyes. That's how much workers' money that Australia's superannuation funds are playing with at the moment. While the markets were skyrocketing, nobody cared, now that the markets have a dose of the collywobles, everybody's concerned about their fund's security. People are beginning to realise that all that money that has been put aside on their behalf, for their old age, could disappear overnight. The collapse of One-tel, Ansett and H.I.H. have brought home to people how brittle the system is.

Superannuation payments have been paid into worker superannuation funds, in lieu of wage increases. In the early days, everybody thought they would be able to accumulate a nice tidy nest egg and begin to live the good life when they retired. Well that was the theory, the reality has turned out to be a little different. Government legislation has made superannuation a defacto pension. At the very moment people crave financial security - retirement, they have been thrown to the mercy of every financial guru in the business. No holiday in the South of France, just enough money to exist. A lifetime of work will be rewarded by a pension that is dependent on the vagaries of the money markets, I guess that's what they call progress in a deregulated economy.

The strange thing about this lazy 500 billion is that there is no regulations to guarantee that workers' nest eggs won't be embezzled by fund managers. If there ever was a time that a buyer should beware, now is the time. Unlike banks and insurance companies, superannuation funds don't even need to have reserve funds. That means if poor investment decisions are made by directors, fund members wouldn't have access to those reserves.

The superannuation industry has survived, not through good management, but through luck. The boom cycle in the current boom bust cycle, has paid useful dividends. These dividends have swelled

superannuation member's pockets, creating a risk taking approach to finances. The investments that created all those profits are about to plunge into a bearish market. Some funds that have made poor investment decisions, will go under over the next few years. Workers' superannuation payments will be lost because no legislation will be in place to protect workers' superannuation entitlements. The debate should not revolve around what people will do with their superannuation payments, but how these entitlements will be protected. Unfortunately for those funds that collapsed, there are no guarantees as far as members' superannuation funds are concerned.

WHAT PRICE AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP?

I wonder how many Australians are aware of the hypocrisy behind the Commonwealth government's advertising campaign to encourage the nine hundred thousand permanent residents (mostly British) who live in Australia, to take up Australian citizenship. While the government is doing all it can to encourage residents who have decided to retain their citizenship and not take out Australian citizenship, it has taken a draconian approach to the fate of asylum seekers.

The abysmal treatment meted out to those incarcerated in Australian detention centres and the shoddy farcical treatment that has been administered to those on the Tampa and those asylum seekers who refuse to leave the Minerva is, if it wasn't so serious, little more than a comedy of errors. The way Nauru a sovereign State has been and is being treated by the Australian State, is the type of behavior you'd expect from a bully. As Nauruans begin to realise what's going on, they will refuse to co-operate with the Federal government, putting Howard and his government in the untenable position they have created for themselves.

I really wonder why the government bothers to court permanent residents, men and women living in this country who are happy to share in its benefits, but who refuse to take out Australian citizenship. Instead of wasting taxpayers' money on

this mob, they should be turning their attention to those asylum seekers who have fled some of the most brutal regimes on the planet, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Palestine to come to Australia. Considering they'll do anything to get here, you'd think that they should at least be assessed on Australian soil, not shunted across the Pacific like a cargo of live sheep.

It's obvious that people who have sacrificed so much to get here, would make for happier and productive Australian citizens, than those permanent residents who have to be cajoled to take out Australian citizenship.

SCIENTIFIC CENSORSHIP!!

Over the past month over a dozen independent scientific journals have sounded warnings about how scientific research is becoming dominated by corporate interests. The corporatisation of scientific research has profound consequences both for the scientific community and the general population. The privatisation and corporatisation of universities has worsened an already difficult situation.

Scientific research is no longer value free. It's driven by forces that only consider commercial realities. Researchers who are bankrolled by the private sector and an increasing number of research projects are financed by the corporate sector, find that they have to sign agreements with their backers which hands over control of their research findings to those people that finance their research.

This leads to situations that encourage scientific censorship. Instead of leaving the decision about what will be published to independent editorial boards, the decision to publish or not to publish is being influenced by commercial considerations. Material that should be shared with other researchers becomes the private property of one small group, this group then determines whether the material should be exposed to peer review.

Results that don't support the backers cause never see the light of day, while results that should be exposed to the glare of peer review are not published in scientific journals, but are patented and developed before negative consequences are explored. The situation has become so intolerable that editorial boards believe that their independent analysis of scientific research is being subverted by the needs of the corporate world. Publication of data allowed independent researchers to verify material published. Publication has pushed out the scientific envelope by allowing the whole scientific community, not just a few private backers to benefit from scientific research.

The current state of affairs benefits no one but private corporations. It cannot be allowed to go on, if it continues to go on, it's no exaggeration to say that a system that has been developed to serve and protect the community will be subverted by a system that is only interested in the generation of profit.

PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE?

Ever wondered why New York was attacked on September the 11th? Of the theories doing the rounds, one broadcast by the BBC and discussed in the Guardian seems to be gaining credibility. Osama bin Laden and the Taliban received threats that the United States was going to attack Afghanistan two months before the terrorist strike on New York and Washington. It's possible that Bin Laden and his group launched pre-emptive strikes on the United States because they realised that irrespective of what they did or didn't do, the Bush administration was going to destroy them. At a meeting in Berlin in mid July, attended by delegates from the United States, Iran, Pakistan and Russia, the United States representatives clearly stated that they would attack Afghanistan if the Taliban did not hand over Bin Laden. In a speech to the House Committee on International Relations for the Asia and Pacific region delivered on the 12th of February 1998 by John Moresca, the Vice President for International Relations for the Unocal Corporation, it was made abundantly clear to the American Congress how important Afghanistan was if the United States was to secure oil and gas supplies.

The Caucasus and Central Asia landlocked regions have abundant supplies of untapped oil and gas. The problem facing Unocal is that it needs the existing pipes in the former Soviet Union to run South from Chardzhou in Northern Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan to a port on the Arabian sea. This oil and gas could then be sold for a handsome profit to the expanding Asian market. There is a lot of interest in this proposed pipeline, in fact so much interest that Unocal signed an agreement with the Taliban in January 1998 to pass a natural gas pipeline through Afghanistan. The company withdrew from the agreement in December 1998 because of increasing instability in Afghanistan and because the Taliban regime was not able to secure international recognition. A year later the United Nations imposed wide ranging sanctions on the Taliban regime.

Whether we are seeing a new chapter in the "Great Game" that was played by Russia and England to control Central Asian resources or whether we are just seeing a response to the terrorist attack in the United States is difficult to say. What we can say is that the devastating attack on New York has given the United States and Britain the excuse they need to incorporate Afghanistan into the global economy.

Thanks to John Englart from Anarres Books for the information to write this article.

ANARCHIST QUESTION AND ANSWER

Are anarchists culturally neutral?

Many people are under the misconception that anarchism is culturally neutral. Nothing could be further from the truth. Anarchism is based on the principles of individual freedom, collective use of resources and mass participation. Many cultures are based on principles that are diametrically opposed to these principles. Whether a culture is just evolving or has been practiced for thousands of years makes little difference to the way that anarchists approach problems that are raised within a particular cultural context. All cultures contain both libertarian and authoritarian elements. Some are based on individual ownership, some respect the idea of personal freedom, while others are based on rigid hierarchical structures. Anarchists support the libertarian and oppose the authoritarian elements within cultures.

They don't want to see the annihilation of any culture or the absorption of any culture into a dominant culture. What they would like to see is the expansion of the libertarian principles which exist in all cultures. They would give their support to those people within a cultural framework who are struggling to break down and remove authoritarian tendencies within a particular cultural setting.

They would be involved in campaigns and struggles that attempt to break down the power base of those people within a particular cultural context, who use that power to deny people the right to make their own decisions. Anarchists would become involved in campaigns that

protect the right of children to grow up in an environment where they would be free to make decisions about cultural practices when they are old enough to make their own decision. Both male and female circumcision would fall within this context. Anarchist activists would become involved in campaigns that support the right of individuals to make decisions about whether they follow a particular cultural practice, free of coercion and sanctions, both within that culture and from any dominant external culture.

The application of these principles, within different cultural settings, would strengthen, not diminish different cultures, because people would follow certain practices because they want to, not because they are afraid of the consequences of not following such practices. Viva la difference – but a difference based on free choice, not compulsion.

ACTION BOX

Don't Lose Sight Of The Big Picture

It's very very easy to become lost in the minutiae of everyday life. The problems that we all face, both at a personal, familial, work and community level, can drain us of the energy we need to act outside our immediate concerns. It's no accident that most people have difficulty looking at the bigger picture.

Post-modern Western society relies on mass consumption and minimal participation. Although we live under the illusion that we have unlimited choice, that choice is determined by our access to resources. It's difficult, in such a cultural setting, to understand or know who pulls the strings, let alone have a vision of an alternative society. It's much easier in a society where the boundaries are set in concrete for people to develop ideas about the type of society they live in and the type of society they would like to create to replace it.

Post-modern capitalist society is like a blancmange, you have an idea of what it looks like, but it's opaque nature makes it difficult to know how it runs, who has power and how decisions are made. The constant conversation about freedom, democracy and unlimited choice creates the illusion that we live in a society where individuals, not society, has problems.

In such an environment, it's difficult to convince people about how society is structured and where real power lies, let alone open up discussions about alternatives to current structures. That's why it's important that we don't lose sight of the bigger picture. What type of society we live in, how it's structured, how life could be different in that society and why we want radical egalitarian change. Losing sight of the bigger picture makes it almost impossible to initiate campaigns and create alternatives. Once we lose sight of that picture, we like Prometheus, are doomed to a life of mindless repetition.

Do we want to live a life of permanent protest, acting as the conscience of the society we live in? Or do we want to change that society so that it reflects our hopes and aspirations for a community that's based on egalitarian principles? If we want radical egalitarian change, we must never lose sight of the bigger picture.

AUSTRALIAN ANARCHIST

AND RADICAL HISTORY

"Declaration Of War"

The Courier (Brisbane 30th March 1912) said, "A general strike is a declaration of war", and war it was on Brisbane's streets in February 1912. The Brisbane General Strike occurred because tramway workers were not able to wear union badges while working. What at first seemed like a trivial dispute, soon blew up into all-out war. On the first two days of the strike, processions were allowed. On the third day, police cordons with fixed bayonets were thrown up to stop strikers from marching. The Police Commissioner, Cahill, called in reinforcements from the county side and swore in special constables to maintain order.

In Brisbane, no work could be performed without permission from the strike committee. Even government departments had to apply to the strike committee for permits to work. The

Strike Committee organised five hundred vigilance officers to maintain order and also set up an Emergency Ambulance Brigade. It was as if an alternative government had been set up. The strike committee also issued strike coupons which could be used for payment for necessities in some businesses. February the 12th was set aside as a day that women and girls would protest. They marched from Trades Hall to Parliament House. As the women were returning to Market Square, mounted police rode into the crowd, hitting the women with batons. The first Australian General Strike didn't go well for the strikers. As the strike crumbled, the award made by Mr. Justice Higgins in the Federal Arbitration Court to increase tramway men's wages and allow them to wear their union badges was dismissed on appeal. The General Strike in part failed because it was not supported by Trades and Labour Councils in other states. Many leading unionists across Australia criticised the Brisbane General Strike. The New South Wales Transport Workers Council's declared, when attempts were made to spread the strike to New South Wales, that "an offence to the organisation has occurred, if any member of any of the societies cease work or boycotts any vessel in New South Wales waters in sympathy with the Brisbane strikers". So much for the history of class and union solidarity in Australia. Unfortunately, as the strike crumbled, those tramway workers who took part in the strike, were dismissed by their American employers.



BOOK REVIEW

**Crass Art And Other Post-Modern
Monsters, By Gee Voucher
AK Press Exitstincel Press 1999
ISBN 1-873176-10-4**

It's not often that a radical artist's best work can be appreciated in one volume. AK Press gave Gee Voucher, an artist best known for her work with the band Crass carte blanche to publish her own book. Crass Art and other Post-Modern Monsters is the culmination of a years work. Gee has selected work from an ongoing career that had already spanned 22 years (1963-1997). Although her work has been pigeon holed as political art her mastery of the line gives her political art a dimension that's lacking in the social realist offerings many people equate with political art. Gee Voucher makes a point of being a pre post-modernist artist. She doesn't shrug her shoulders when faced with hypocrisy and injustice, she uses space to shock, inform and delight us. The work is constructed using collage, pastel and gouache. She has made her mark in the art world, not through the gallery scene but as part of an ongoing series of publications. Her visual gymnastics delivers a message that's as subtle as being hit by a train. A few of her more memorable efforts include a 1980 collage 28cm x 21cm which depicts an English restaurant heavy with the best the land can offer. A smiling, white coated, bow tied waiter is lovingly presenting the main course to four comfortable, middle aged diners, a naked emaciated third world child. This collage does more to explain third world hunger than a hundred television commercial for World Vision could ever hope to achieve. Another collage 29cm x 21cm 1983 which says more than an encyclopedia can say about war is 'still life with nude'. A dead soldier sprawled face down in the sand next to a collection of his personal affects and photographs is punctuated with a colour photograph of the nude head, neck and breasts of a pin-up girl the soldier carried with him. The viewer's eye is drawn to the colour photograph of the nude centered in a

black and white collage. Her life makes a mockery of the soldier's death. Most readers would be aware of Gee Voucher work from her crass album covers. She worked with the anarcho punk band from its beginnings in 1978 to its demise in 1984. Crass art and other pre post-modernist monsters is one of those books that you don't really need but makes a wonderful addition to that collection of radical literature you've stashed under your bed. Thanks to Anarres books for providing the review copy of this book. This book isn't cheap, it retails for \$44.00 (Australian) and is available from Anarres books. Write to them at PO Box 150 East Brunswick 3057 Melbourne Australia. Email your order to mailorder@anarres.org.au. While you're cyber surfing have a look at their web site. <http://www.anarres.org.au> you won't be disappointed.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION

Outer suburbs in all its glory, neat brown dusty front lawns fighting for life in an alien setting. Cheap wire fences enclosing a 1960's brick veneer dream homes. Small stunted shrubs sprouting beneath aluminium windows, identical houses in rows of identical houses, streets in a suburb of look-a-like streets. Children on school holidays race up and down the roads, some play ball as they duck the occasional car. Boring Australian suburbia, predictable, safe hiding a multitude of sins behind stable brick veneer facades. Nothing here to stir controversy let alone an original thought. A young child, barely walking, sensible brown shoes, rugged up from head to toe on a day when young skin should be bared to the sun, runs across the grass, falling into his mothers arms. He picks himself up and runs to the fence testing its integrity. His mother lifts herself from the grass and gently loosens his grip on the wire fence. He joins in the fun, running to the other side trying to clamber over the other fence. His mother joins in the game, catching up in her arms, placing him back in the middle of the front yard. Australia all over, private property, child, young mother enjoying the warmth of the sun on an early spring afternoon. Everything seems to be right in the world, God is in his temple counting all his followers. Just one discordant note, the young woman is covered in a dark billowing robe that covers her ankles. Her head is covered in a scarf and her face is obliterated by a bandanna that would put a smile on the face of an ardent anti-globalisation protestor who is trashing a transnational corporate office. No tear gas, no secret police, no barricades, no AK 47', no visible sign of the State, just a young mother running and playing with her child in a Melbourne front yard. Her eyes, the only part of her anatomy in contact with the sun's rays. Her bandanna is not in place to keep the unwanted attention of the State at bay, it's there to protect her from the gaze of the world. Why should the world gaze on a man's private property, her mind, body and soul is for him alone. They play for a few more minutes and quickly disappear into a quintessential three bedroom brick veneer house on an average block in an average suburb in middle Australia, cultural hostages in a land that worships the sun.

STOP PRESS

**The Tale Of Two Muslim States.
One Good, One Bad**

A tale of two Muslim states, one good, one bad. Holding onto the United States coat-tails, Saudi Arabia extinguishes every human right known to man, and the world cheers and claps. The Saudi Royal Family has the United States on its side, it can do whatever it likes as long as it supports United States foreign policy. Capital punishment for a host of lifestyle choices, women kept on the margins of society, a flotilla of guest workers from the third-world treated little better than feudal servants, Sharia

law implemented with the full backing of the United States, that's life in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Royal Family is so concerned about its population turning its guns on it, it doesn't even have a standing army. The United States government has filled the breach, stationing troops in Saudi Arabia, to keep the Saudi Royal Family, a cast of thousands, in the lifestyle they're accustomed to. In steps Afghanistan's Taliban, a collection of Islamic students and scholars, supported and bank rolled by the Saudi Royal Family. The world stands back aghast as they implement their 11th century view of Islam on a population that has flirted with the sins of secularism. Every sin the Taliban is guilty of, the Saudi Royal Family is guilty of. The difference between the Taliban and the Saudi Royal Family is one of alliance, not oppressive laws. One supports United States foreign policy, the other finds itself on the outer. If only the Taliban had been able to finalise an agreement to allow gas and oil to flow across Afghanistan from the old Russian states to Pakistan. If only they had shown some respect for United States foreign policy, things would be different. Instead of being concerned about a United States led invasion, they could have called on the United States to station troops in their country and support the Taliban. If they did this, they could practice their religion to their hearts content. They could do what they liked to their people, and the United States as in Saudi Arabia, would use its military might to defend, not exterminate the Taliban. One side right, the other side wrong – the difference, not human rights, but support for United States national interests.

**Joseph TOSCANO / Libertarian
Workers for a Self-Managed Society.**

VIDEO BOX

Warner Video has attempted to impose new trading terms on the video retail and hire industry in Australia. This will directly affect the consumer (us) as it will mean a dramatic increase in the cost of video (DVD) hire. What the new trading terms do is create a dual pricing system for rental and retail DVD's, and seek to prevent "retail only" DVD's from being rented. The reason for this is Warner believes copyright laws apply differently to DVD's than to VHS due to the different technology involved. In other words, because within the DVD player the movie is allegedly copied technically to the system before/while being played, that the consumer has to pay for a hire through increased rental costs. In reality, when one watches a DVD video, the data is lost once the DVD player is stopped. The customer did not copy a DVD. Their system did, temporarily. Currently, it appears many predominantly self owned and independent video stores across Australia are boycotting purchasing DVD videos from Warner. If Warner succeeds in imposing its trading terms then shops that originally bought DVD's for say \$60 for hire purposes will incur an extra charge. This will mean an increase in DVD video hire costs to the consumer. It will stamp out any competitive pricing on DVD hires due to the closure of many independent stores that will not be able to cope with the extra charges, creating an ever increasing monopolisation of the video industry by Blockbuster, Movieland, and various other chain stores. AVRA (Australian Video Retailers Association Limited) filed an application on August 28 2001 in the Federal Court alleging breaches by Warner of the Trade Practices Act and Copyright Act. Next week look out for my review on a recently released to video film called Harlan County Wars, based on the true story of a Kentucky miners strike in the 1970's.

**Georgios Alexandrou
I can be contacted at:
madwog007@bigpond.com**



ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

- ANARCHY No.51 Spring/Summer 2001, A Journal of Desire Armed, P.O. B. 1446, COLUMBIA MO 65205-1446, Email jmcquinn@coin.org
- LE MONDE LIBERTAIRE No.1250 20th-26th Sept.2001, 145 Rue Amelot, 75011, PARIS, FRANCE, Tel.0148 053 408, Fax.0149 299 859
- UMANITA NOVA Vol.81 No.31 16th Sept. 2001, C.So Palermo 46, 10152 TORINO, ITALY, Email fat@inrete.it, Tel./Fax.(011)857 850, Mobile 0338-6594361

DEBT ELIMINATION APPEAL – Our debt stands at \$1426.30

So you think that the Anarchist Age Weekly Review will appear week in, week out, irrespective of the economic circumstances. If Ansett, H.I.H. and OneTel – billion dollar companies – can go down the drain, why can't we? Our latest appeal for people to renew their subscriptions have fallen on deaf ears. Our appeal for internet users to take out subscriptions have met the same fate. If thirty subscribers took out subscriptions for another year, we wouldn't be in the position we are in today. The ball's in your court. If you can help by renewing subscriptions, then we encourage you to do so.

Keep sending in those money orders and cheques made out to Libertarian Workers to PO Box 20 Parkville, 3052 Melbourne Australia. If sending less than 20 dollars send 45 cent stamps and save on bank and post office charges. Without your assistance we cannot continue to publish and broadcast. Don't know what to buy that friend that doesn't want or need anything!! Buy them a subscription to the Anarchist Age Weekly Review, 10 issues 10 dollars, 50 issues 50 dollars. Earth's only English anarchist weekly.

Debt 3-10-2001

\$1426.30

ANARCHIST WORLD THIS WEEK

NOW ON THE INTERNET – FOR ANYBODY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD TO LISTEN IN TO. LIKE THE PROGRAM – TELL YOUR FRIENDS AROUND THE PLANET ABOUT OUR INTERNET ADDRESS

– <http://www.freespeech.org/anarchistAge>

ANARCHIST WORLD THIS WEEK POSTER AVAILABLE FOR THE COST OF A FEW STAMPS

Want to help us find new listeners for the Anarchist World This Week? Send a few stamps to AWTW, PO Box 20, Parkville 3052, Melbourne VIC. Australia. We'll send you out a colour poster (A3) for your use & a black & white poster you can photocopy, put up & display to help us increase the number of people who listen to the Anarchist World This Week.



NATIONAL COMMUNITY RADIO SATELLITE

Anarchist World This Week is broadcast live on the National Community Radio Satellite 10.00am every Wednesday (Eastern time) Community Radio Stations affiliated to the National Community Satellite can play it live or download it and play it later on in the week. The programme is played by a number of community radio stations across Australia. If you want to listen to the Anarchist World This Week, contact your local community radio station and ask them to play the programme. If they won't, ask them why not!!

LATENT ANARCHISTS NEED TO BE ACTIVATED

RTR, a Community Radio Station in Perth, has recently begun broadcasting The Anarchist World This Week. A number of listeners have contacted us about establishing links with other anarchists in Western Australia. If you're interested in making contact with other anarchists in Western Australia, send us a note or email us at anarchistage@yahoo.com. This notice applies both to individuals and groups.

EMAIL MADNESS

Have access to cyberspace? Want to help us save on printing and postage costs? Then why don't you receive the Anarchist Age Weekly Review by email? INTERESTED?? Then email us at anarchistage@yahoo.com and arrange to have the weekly emailed to you.

BAYSIDE ANARCHIST PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER

7.00pm to 10.00pm

TOPIC:- A CELEBRATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO GLOBALISATION – Richard from Seaford will be outlining plans for a daylong meeting/celebration in late November which will be held at the Seaford Community Hall.

VENUE:- WOSSLIE STIP CAFE, 16 STATION ST. SEAFORD, MELBOURNE (one minute from Seaford railway station)

ALL WELCOME! Entry by donation. Tea and Coffee provided.

IT'S OUR ABC

'It's Our ABC' will be meeting outside ABC / Regional Radio Headquarters for the rest of the year at 11.30am

EVERY WEDNESDAY

120-130 The Boulevard, South Melbourne

COME AND JOIN US

and reclaim the ABC as the peoples property

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE OBSCENITY OF THE WEEK

Has been awarded to the budding third term – John Chuckie Howard – the country's beloved Prime Minister and Kim Beazley – the leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition – for supporting the draconian anti-refugee legislation that was passed through parliament in the last parliamentary sitting – good one boys, you should be proud of yourselves.

All the News That Fits

Telstra has been fined \$75,000 for sending an email to managers telling them to favour employees on 'individual contracts' over employees on contracts negotiated by unions, when it came to picking people to be made redundant. The fine is a record amount – but it is less than \$2 for each employee that was discriminated against. Robert Cartwright, who wrote the email, has since been appointed senior deputy president of the Industrial Relations Commission.

SOURCE: The Age, ABC news website.

Foreign Minister Robert Downer has admitted that the Australian government's total commitment to the US government's war with Afghanistan, would make it more likely that there would be terrorist acts in Australia.

SOURCE: Herald Sun.

91% of Victorians are victims of "intimidation tactics, teasing, belittling or verbal or physical abuse to the extent that they could no longer tolerate it. Young women, people from regional areas, less wealthy people, and less educated people were all more likely to be victims. The group most nominated as bullies in public life were politicians.

SOURCE: Survey by Wallis Consulting for VicHealth, reported in the Age.

"How is it possible that our legal system can give one man a month in jail for throwing a cream pie in someone's face [Marcus Brumer was sentenced to one month's jail for 'pieing' Victorian Premier Steve Bracks, because Mr Bracks said he wasn't concerned about police violence at the 'S11' blockade last year], and in the same week gives a suspended sentence (no jail) to someone convicted of producing and distributing over 200 pieces of child pornography?"

SOURCE: 'The Age' letters page.

The Tax Office is keeping GST that customers paid on Ansett tickets they'll never get to use. Ansett collected GST on all its ticket sales. They would have sent this on the Tax Office. Since people won't get to take their trips, this GST should be refunded. The Tax Office is advising people that it has no power to refund GST. It says people should seek a refund from Ansett. Ansett has refused to refund money on tickets before its collapse (even though it's now flying again), and the chance of customers getting a refund from them is effectively zero.

An estimated 35,615 children died of starvation throughout the world on September 11th. The American President did not make a speech and undertook no action. There was nationwide lack of mourning and messages of sympathy failed to pour in from world leaders anywhere. The Pope has joined with other religious leaders to make no comment. The stock exchange did not stop. The effect on world money markets is expected to be nil. The main suspects are an international network of terrorists.

And just to show that we don't only run bad news...

A growing number of people are volunteering to shelter refugees who have escaped from detention centres. An estimated 100 people in Sydney alone hide refugees in their homes. A larger number help in other ways, for example by donating food or money. A large number of people volunteered after 6 year old Shayan Baedrie was revealed to be suffering post-traumatic stress disorder due to conditions in the centres. One message on the ABC's website said "yes, I would have broken Nazi laws to save Jews. If an escapee from an Australian detention centre faced death if deported, how could I refuse?"

SOURCE: The Age, Sydney Morning Herald.

Quote of the week:

"Not in my son's name you don't...I don't want my son used as a pawn to justify the killing of others". Orlando Rodriguez, whose son was killed in the World Trade Centre bombing.

SOURCE: The Age.

Anarchist News Service

Write to James, PO Box 503, Newtown NSW 2042, or email james.hutchings@ato.gov.au

If You Like What You Have Read, Photocopy This Publication and Leave It In Doctors, Dentists, Vets Waiting Rooms and In Railway Stations, Bus Stops, Libraries and Restaurants Etc.

The articles in the Anarchist Age Weekly Review express the opinion of individuals within the Libertarian Workers for a Self-Managed Society/Anarchist Media Institute. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Libertarian Workers for a Self-Managed Society/Anarchist Media Institute.

PUBLICATIONS

Anarchist Age Weekly Review - 4 pages of Anarchist commentary on Local, National and International events.

\$50.00 for 50 issues

\$10.00 for 10 issues

Make out cheques or money orders to: Libertarian Workers, PO Box 20, Parkville, 3052 Victoria Aust.

All material in the Anarchist Age Weekly Review can be used by anarchists, anarchist collectives and non-profit organisations as long as the source of the material is mentioned in the article. The Anarchist Age Weekly Review reserves all rights as far as commercial publications are concerned.

ANARCHISM – ADVANCING IN DIVERSITY STRIKING IN UNISON – YAMAGUCHI KENJI

WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY – THE ANARCHIST CENTURY.....